RG104 E-1 Box 125 Oct-Dec 1881

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., November 3rd., 1881

Sir:

Enclosed I forward for your information copy of a communication received by Mr Baker, Chief of the Secret Service Division, Treasury Department.

Respectfully,

Horace Burchard

Director.

A. Louden Snowden, Esq.,

Supt. Mint of the U. S.,

Philadelphia, Pa.

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A. D. C.

Wash. D. C.
Nov 3/81

R. E. Preston

Enclosing copy of a letter from A. L. Drummond (N.Y. Oct 21/81) to Mr. Baker Chf. Secret Service Division, in reference to copper impressions of U. S. gold coins

Filed Nov. 9th 1881.

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Copy.

New York Oct 21st 1881.

James J. Brooks Esq.
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

During my investigations regarding the sale and use of imitation coins and bank notes recently, I was shown a copper coin struck in the Philadelphia Mint from the genuine $20. gold die dated 1865., also one struck from the genuine $10. die dated 1863. These coins are as fine specimens as I ever saw, and if plated with gold, could get a man in trouble very readily. I purchased both these coins and paid $3.00 for them, $2.50 for the $20. and 50¢ for the $10.

I got an intimation from the man who sold me the coins, that this sort of thing is carried on to a considerable extent by the Mint Employes as a sort of private speculation. That is to say, certain coin collectors in Philadelphia get them made and sell them to persons

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outside of Philadelphia, who are also collectors of rare coins. You will understand that these coins are exactly like a $10. and $20. gold coin, except that they are struck on copper instead of gold. The $20. piece is polished and was taken for a $20. gold coin by a judge of money today. The $10. coin is covered with a solution of bronze, both are dangerous and should not be made, much less sold or given away by employes of the U.S. Mint. I showed them to Mr Piero, and he thinks it villianous, and that the Government could be made to redeem them if any person should be imposed upon by them.

Very truly &c

(Signed) A.L. Drummond.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 125

[Letter One:]
[Abstract:] Enclosing copy of a letter from A.L. Drummond… 1054

Treasury Department,
Bureau of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.,
November 3, 1881

Sir:

Enclosed I forward for your information copy of a communication received by Mr. Baker, Chief of the Secret Service Division, Treasury Department.

Respectfully,
Horatio C. Burchard
Director.

A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.,
Supt. Mint of the U.S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 125

[Letter Two:]

Copy.

New York
October 21, 1881

James J. Brooks, Esq.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir: -

During my investigations regarding the sale and use of imitation coins and banknotes recently. I was shown a copper coin struck in the Philadelphia Mint from the genuine $20 gold dies dated 1865, also one struck from the genuine $10 die dated 1863. These coins are as fine specimens as I ever saw, and if plated with gold, could get a man in trouble very readily. I purchased both these coins and paid $3.00 for them, $2.50 for the $20 and 50¢ for the $10.

I got an intimation from the man who sold me the coins, that this sort of thing is carried on to a considerable extent by the Mint Employees as a sort of private speculation. That is to say, certain coin collectors in Philadelphia get them made and sell them to persons outside of Philadelphia, who are also collectors of rare coins. You will understand that these coins are exactly like a $10 and $20 gold coin, except that they are struck on copper instead of gold.

The $20 piece is polished and was taken for a $20 gold coin by a judge of money today. The $10 coin is covered with a solution of bronze, both are dangerous and should not be made, much less sold or given away by employees of the U.S. Mint.

I showed them to Mr. Fiero, and he thinks it villainous, and that the Government could be made to redeem them if any person should be imposed upon by them.

Very Truly &c.
(signed) A.L. Drummond